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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



SOUTHEAST ASIA ACTIVITY REPORT

ROAD CONSTRUCTION
AND LOGISTICS
SUPPORT AREA
LAOS PANHANDLE

NPIC/R-48/68

COMPENDIUM NO 80

APRIL 1968

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM
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PREFACE

This report is a summary of selected information on transportation, infiltration, military and miscellaneous activity in Southeast Asia as identified by NPIC. Activity in support of communist forces in North Vietnam is emphasized.

Items are generally numbered and arranged according to location from north to south. Annotated maps of varying scales have been included to assist the reader in locating the item. Selected photographs are included whenever scale and interpretability permit.

Missions, mission dates, frames and NPIC cable and briefing board references are listed after each item, as appropriate.

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SUMMARY

This compendium contains information about a new alternate road, a logistic supply area, and a newly opened road -- developments which typify the communists' effort to increase and improve their supply lines in the Laos Panhandle. The new alternate road, which is between Route 911/91 and Route 23, by-passes numerous frequently interdicted choke-point areas. Several well-dispersed truck parks and supply areas on Route 9 and Route 92 extension between Sepone and Ban Houei Sane appear to aid in supplying the enemy's Khe Sanh build-up. The entire distance of Route 23 between Muong Phine and Saravane is open for the first time in over five years. This is a supply line for the reported communist build-up near Saravane.

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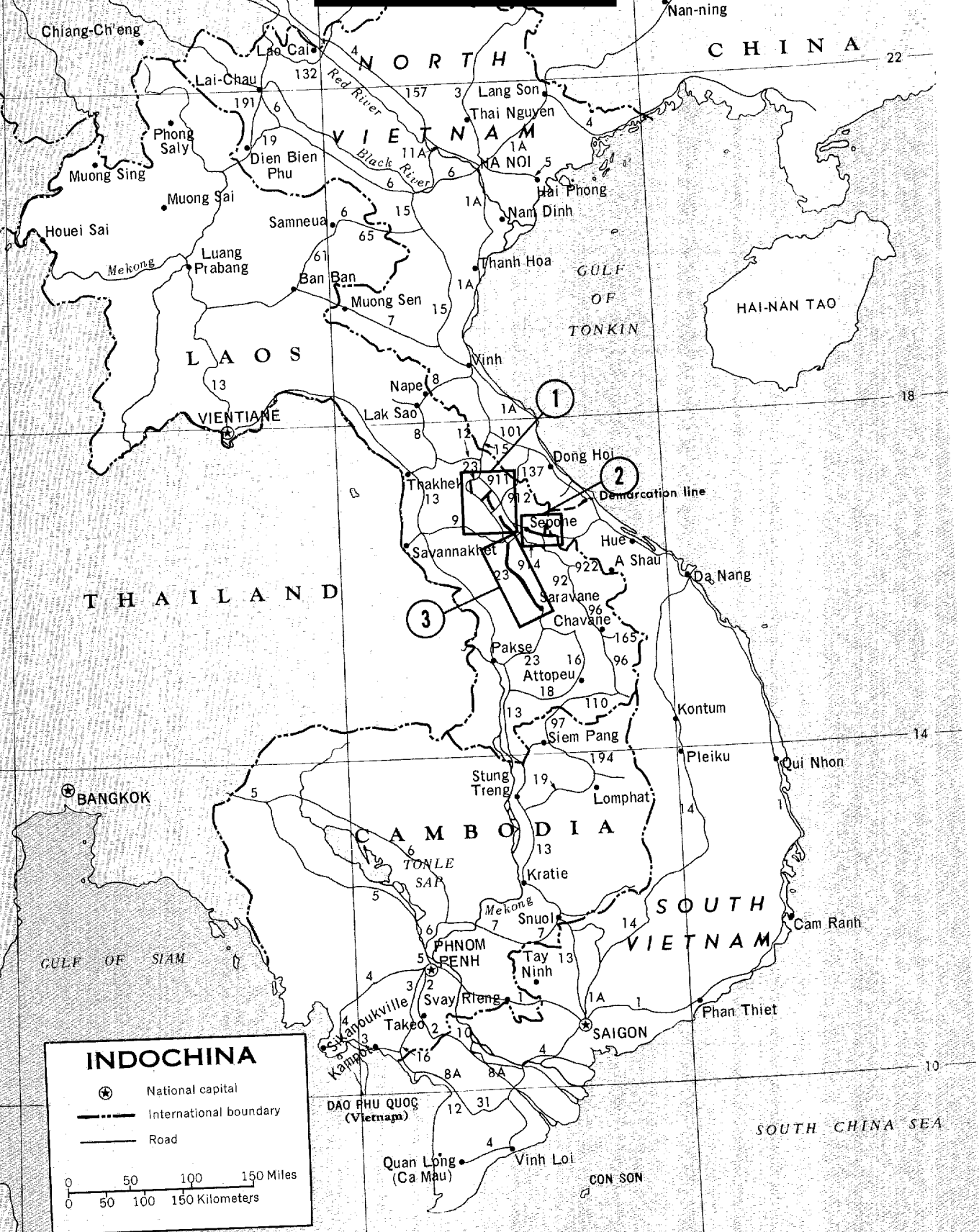
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1. New Roads Between Routes 91/911 and 23, Laos Panhandle

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Three areas containing new roads which generally parallel Route 23 in the Laos Panhandle are located between Route 23 at 17-18N 105-37E () and Route 9 at 16-39N 106-07E (). The roads provide an alternate route for the heavily used Routes 91/911 and for Route 23. They will probably be used to supplement the movement of personnel and material to the Khe Sanh area as well as points farther south. The three roads show light usage and are covered by heavy tree canopy in most areas. The three areas are annotated A, B, and C on the adjacent map.

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A portion of the new road in Area A was first observed under construction on photography of (). At that time vehicle tracks extended 2 nm south of Route 23 to 17-17N 105-36E (), and the remaining 10 nm was a trail with some initial road clearing. Photography of () shows construction complete and vehicle tracks south to the limit of coverage at 17-10N 105-37E (). The remaining 2.5 nm rejoin Route 23 at 17-08N 105-37E () and are probably also in use. This alternate road will shorten by 10 nm the distance for north-south traffic previously routed over Route 23.

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25X1D

25X1D

A new road in Area B connects Routes 911 and 23 from 17-06N 105-53E () to 17-04N 105-45E (). Figure 1 shows a segment of the new road at 17-05N 105-49E (). A second road extends about 12 nm south of the connecting road from 17-05N 105-48E () to the northern extension of Route 91 at 16-56N 105-52E ().

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

A new road in Area C, approximately 26 nm long, extends from Route 91 at 16-53N 105-54E () to Route 9 at 16-39N 106-07E (). This junction with Route 9 is shown in Figure 2. Vehicle tracks also join with Route 9 at 16-41N 106-08E (). Figure 3 shows a segment of the new road at 16-43N 105-57E (). Traffic on this road will probably continue east and SE via Routes 9 and 914; however, Route 9 SW to Muong Phine has recently been reopened.

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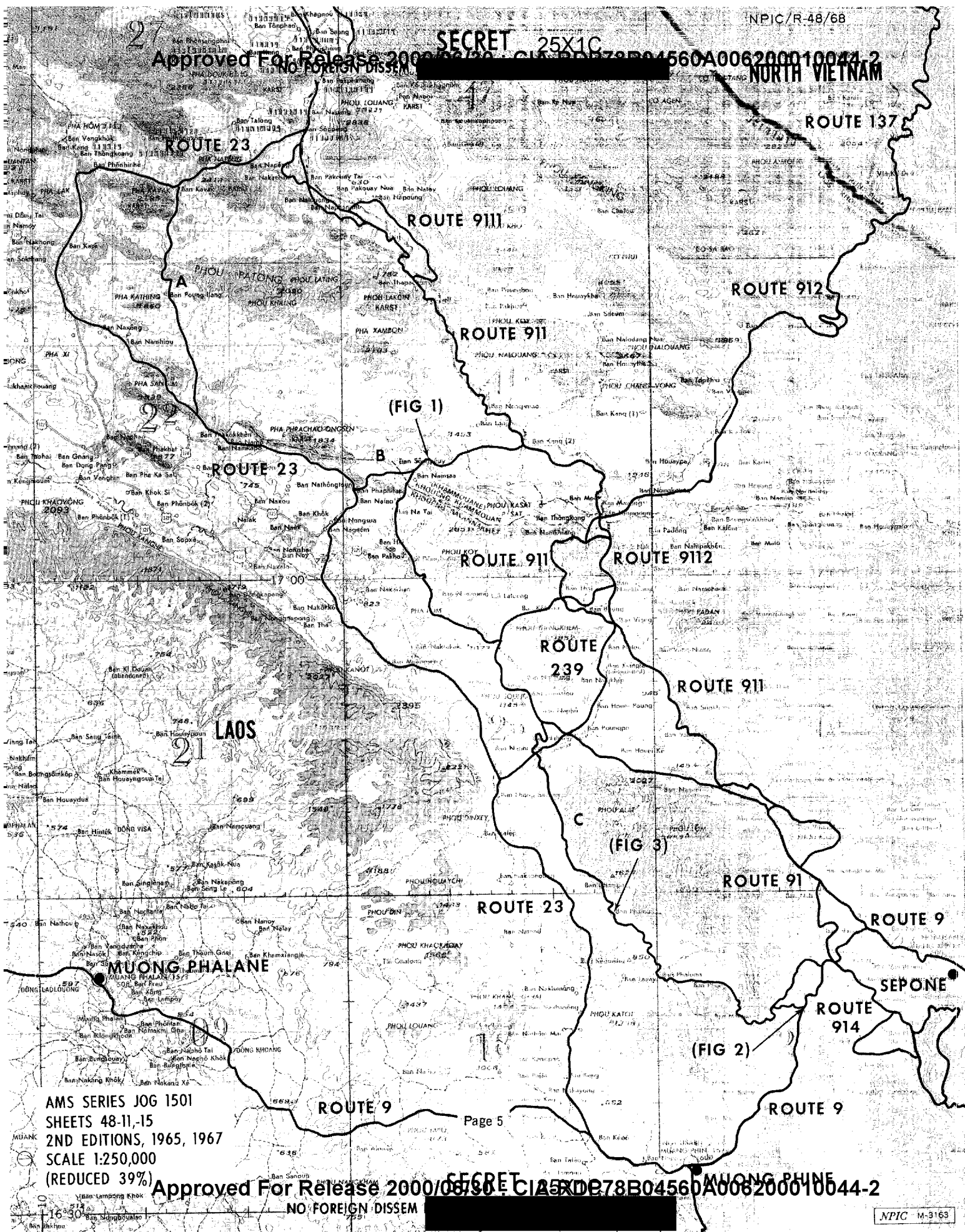
25X1D

NPIC Cable Cite 2726, DTG 160019Z, Jan 68, Ser F00562
NPIC Cable Cite 3222, DTG 130238Z, Mar 68, Ser F00660
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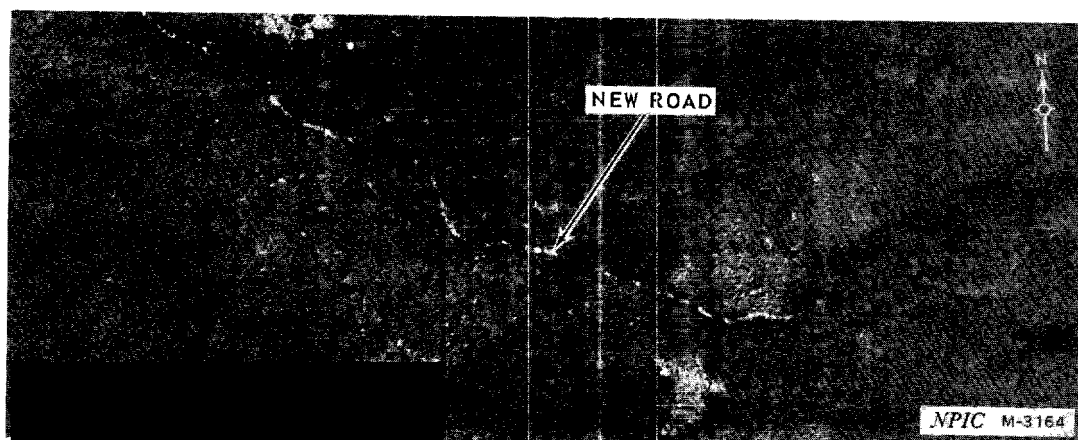


FIGURE 1. NEW ROAD BETWEEN ROUTES 911 AND 23, LAOS PANHANDLE

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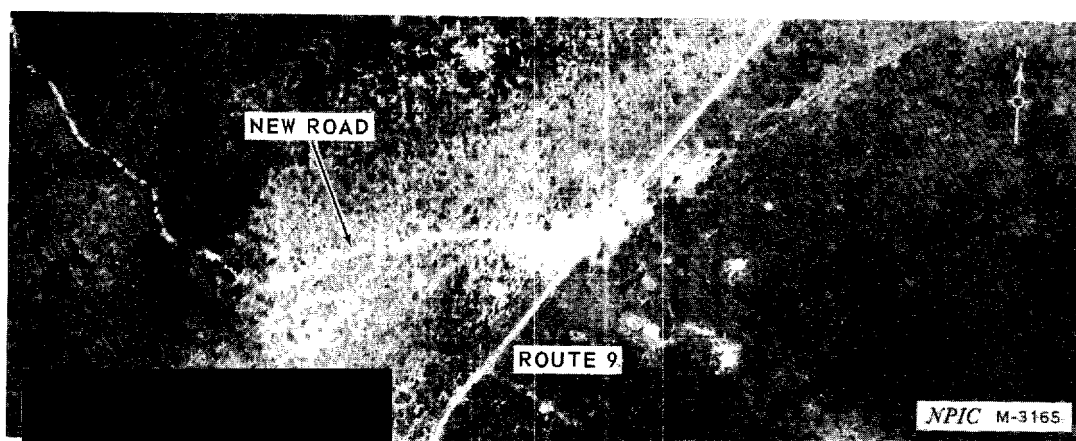


FIGURE 2. NEW UNNUMBERED ROAD JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 9, LAOS PANHANDLE

25X1D

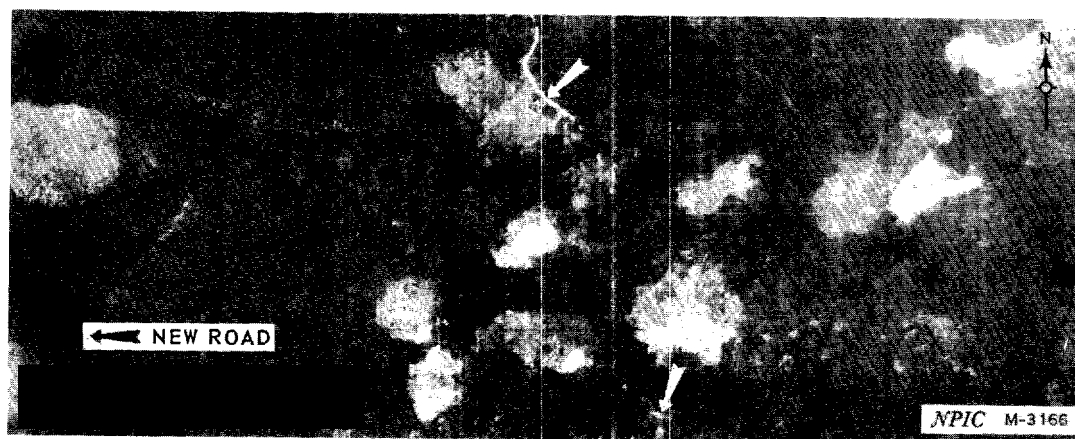


FIGURE 3. NEW ROAD BETWEEN ROUTES 91 AND 9, LAOS PANHANDLE

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2. Logistics Support Area, Route 9, Laos

A logistics support area is located along Route 9 between Sepone and Ban Houei Sane and along the Route 92 extension. The area, consisting of numerous well-dispersed truck parks and storage areas, appears to be in direct support of the enemy's Khe Sanh build-up. The roads in this area show heavy, recent use.

The following is a description of the facilities depicted on the adjacent map:

1. Truck Park, 16-41N 106-14E ([REDACTED]) Recent vehicle tracks extend to the parking area. 25X1D
2. Reactivated Truck Park, 16-40N 106-16E ([REDACTED]). Vehicle tracks extend south of Route 9 to a small parking area under heavy tree cover. 25X1D
3. Truck Park, 16-40N 106-17E ([REDACTED]). A new access road leads to the loop turnaround. 25X1D
4. Truck Park, 16-40N 106-19E ([REDACTED]). An access road leads to the parking area and turning loops (Figure 4). (This truck park shows expansion and sharply increased use on [REDACTED]). 25X1D
5. Probable Truck Park, 16-38N 106-20E ([REDACTED]). Two loop service roads are connected to Route 9 by a well-used access road. 25X1D
6. Truck Park, 16-39N 106-21E ([REDACTED]). Loop service roads are connected to Route 9 by an access road. 25X1D
7. Truck Park, 16-39N 106-21E ([REDACTED]). Loop service roads are connected to Route 9 by an access road. 25X1D
8. Reactivated Truck Park, 16-39N 106-22E ([REDACTED]). Located 0.6 nm north of Route 9, a network of partially concealed loop service roads is connected to Route 9 by a heavily used access road. 25X1D
9. Truck Park/Storage Area, 16-38N 106-21E ([REDACTED]). Located on the north bank of the Se Pone (river), the area consists of a long, partially concealed access road and a partially concealed loop service road (Figure 5). 25X1D
10. Truck Park, 16-38N 106-22E ([REDACTED]). A small parking area is located near an abandoned AAA site. 25X1D

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 NO FOREIGN DISSEM [REDACTED] 25X1C

NO FOREIGN DISSEM [REDACTED]

25X1C

25X1D

11. Probable Truck Park/Storage Area, 16-38N 106-23E ([REDACTED]). A probable loop road and one link service road are connected to Route 9 by a moderately used access road.

25X1D

12. Probable Truck Park, 16-43N 106-26E ([REDACTED]). An area in heavy tree cover is connected to the northern extension of Route 92 by two short access roads (Figure 6).

13. Truck Park/Storage Areas, 16-40N 106-26E. Access and loop service roads are in these areas as follows (reading from north to south on the map):

25X1D

At [REDACTED], loop service roads are connected to the northern extension of Route 92 by well used access roads;

25X1D

At [REDACTED], a well used access road extends to one loop and two link service roads;

25X1D

At [REDACTED] an access road shows moderate use; and

25X1D

At [REDACTED] a partially concealed access road extends to two loop service roads under heavy tree canopy.

25X1D

14. Vehicle Tracks. Tracks extend north of Route 9 to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. 25X1D

25X1D

15. Truck Park, 16-37N 106-28E ([REDACTED]). Located on both sides of Route 9, the area consists of three short link service roads that extend under a heavy tree canopy.

25X1D

16. Trenching, 16-36N 106-29E [REDACTED]. Heavy trenching is located north of Route 9.

25X1D

[REDACTED]

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NPIC Cable Cite 3069, DTG 212032Z, Feb 68, Ser F00629

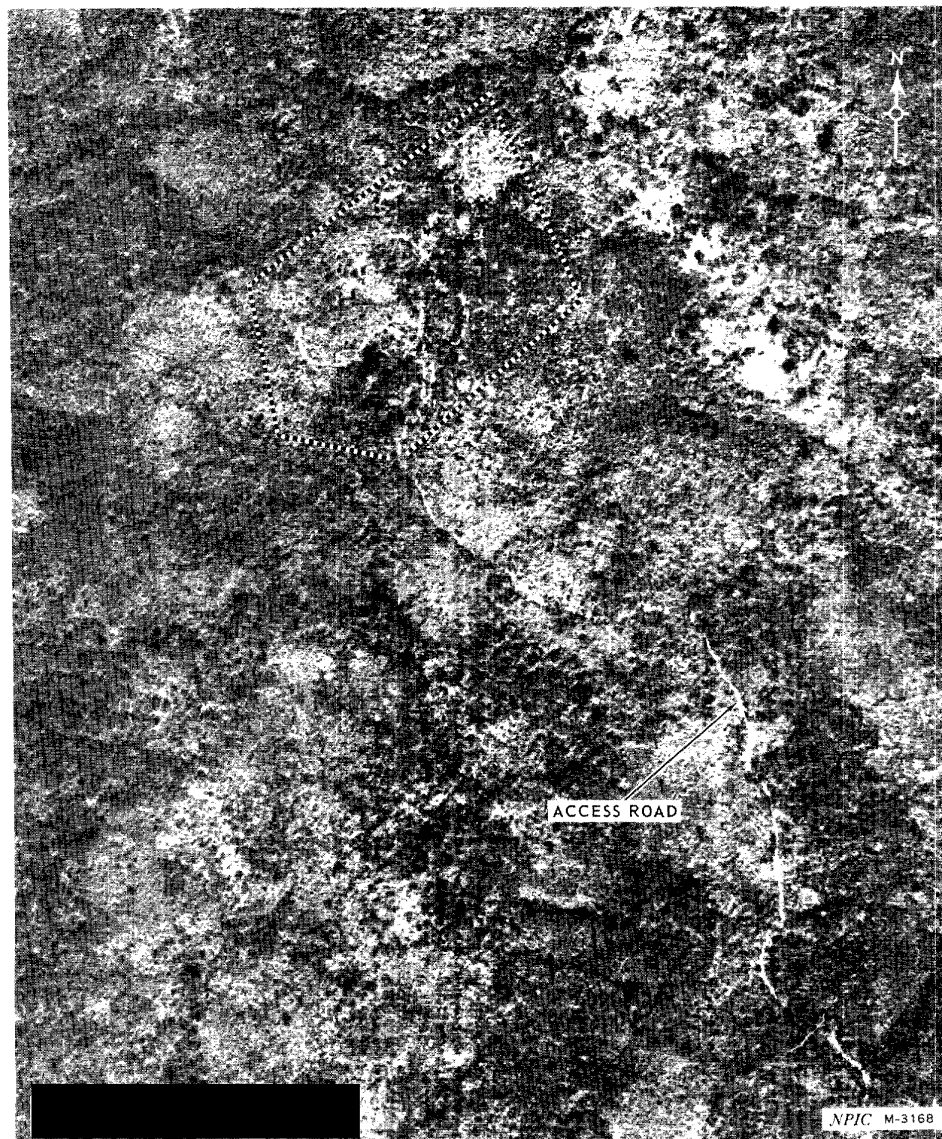
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FIGURE 4. TRUCK PARK, ROUTE 9, LAOS

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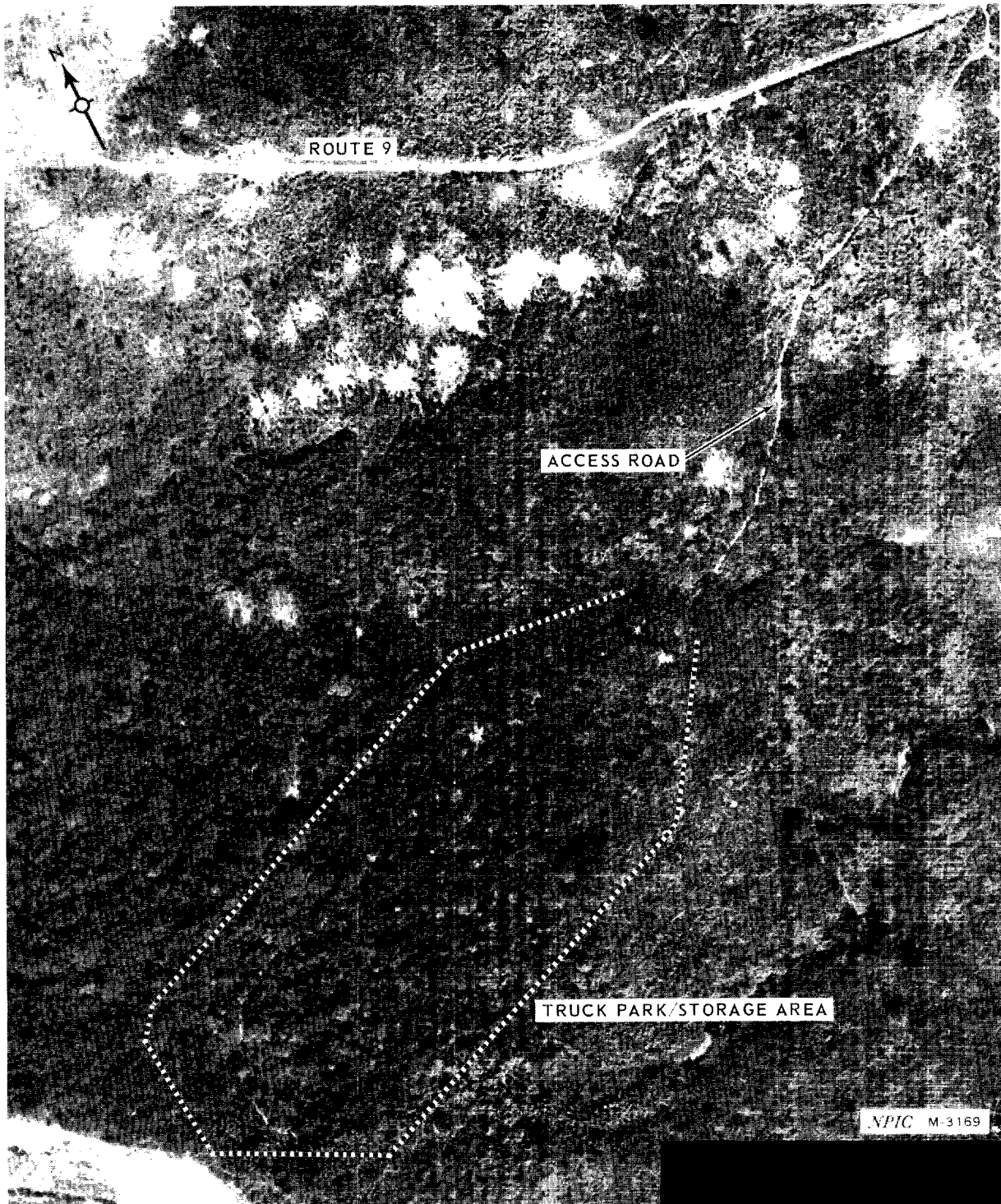


FIGURE 5. TRUCK PARK/STORAGE AREA, ROUTE 9, LAOS

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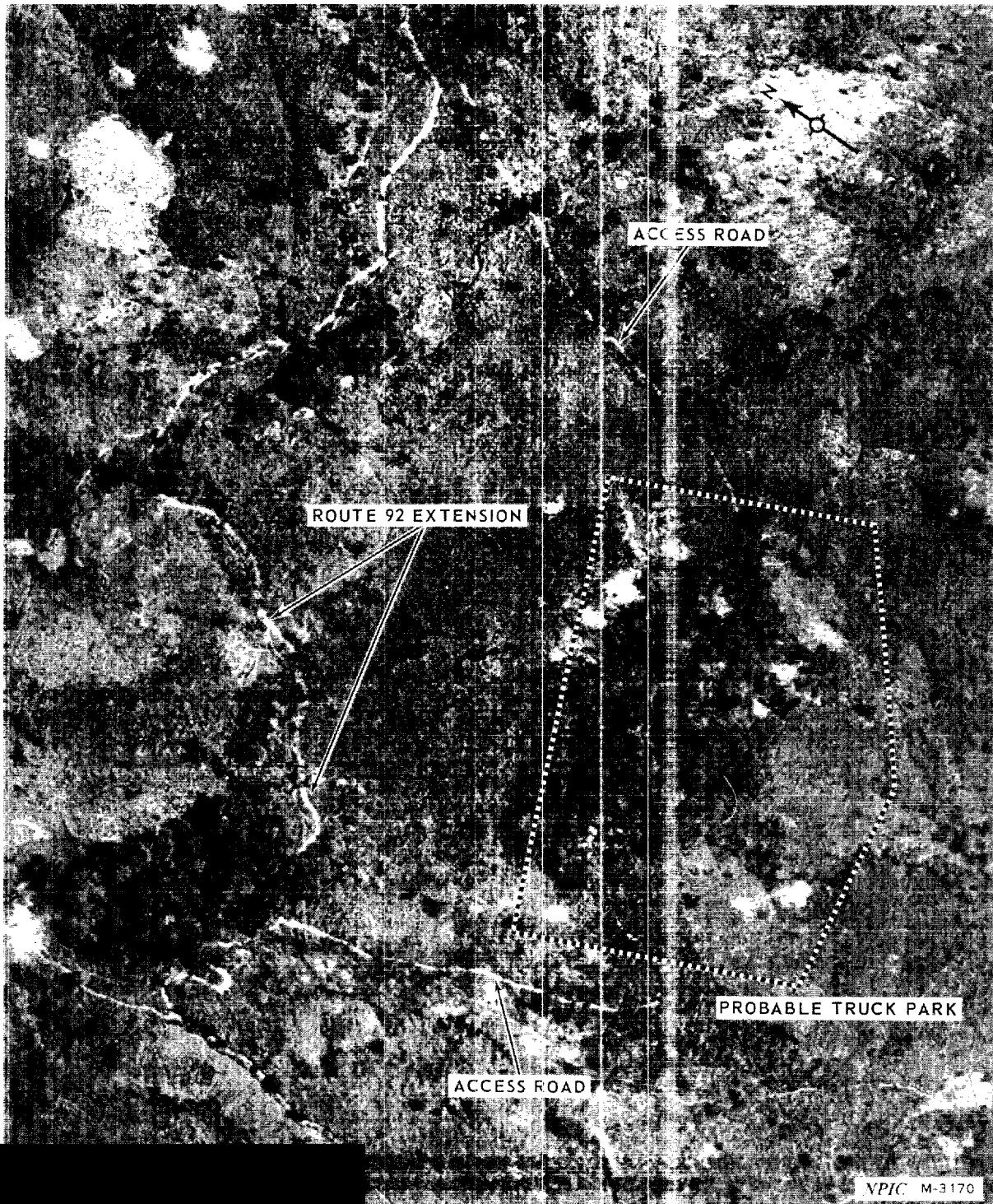


FIGURE 5. PROBABLE TRUCK PARK, ROUTE 92 EXTENSION, LAOS

FIGURE 5

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3. Reactivated Segment of Route 23, Saravane Area, Laos

Vehicle tracks are observed along the entire length of Route 23 between Muong Phine and Saravane. This is the first time in over five years that this segment of Route 23 has been motorable. On photography of [REDACTED], the road with its new alignment was observed open as far south as 16-08N 106-02E [REDACTED] and reported in Summary No. 78, Item 1. Since [REDACTED], the remaining 15 nm segment between 16-08N 106-02E and Ban Don Boung has been used by vehicles (Figures 7, 8, and 9). The vehicle tracks generally follow the original alignment, but numerous short by-passes are observed.

The road between Ban Don Buong and Saravane has been under Royal Laotian control, and is in use with all bridges serviceable, including the one in Figure 9 at 15-47N 106-17E [REDACTED]

25X1D

25X1D

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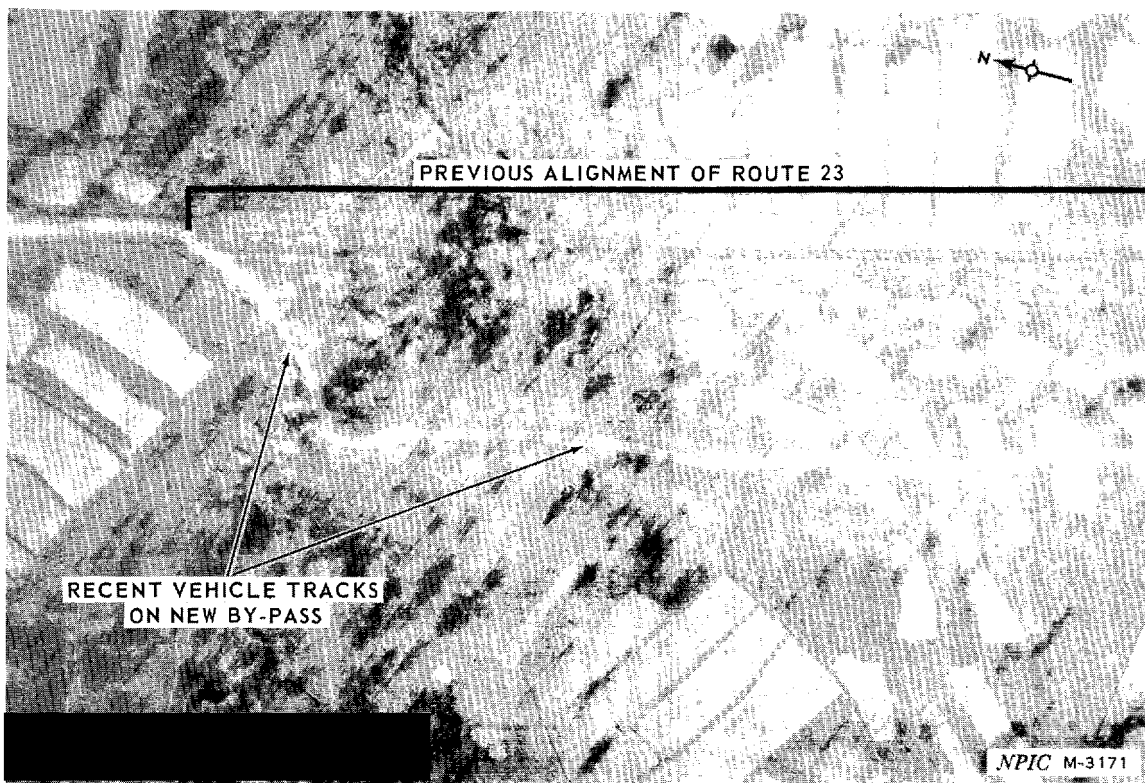


FIGURE 7. ROAD IN USE, ROUTE 23, LAOS [REDACTED]

25X1D

25X1C

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SOUTH VIETNAM

ROUTE 23

SE PONE

ROUTE 9

ROUTE 914

MUONG PHINE

840
ROUTE 92

ROUTE 23

LAOS

**SOUTHERN TERMINUS
OF VEHICLE TRACKS**

25X1D

(FIG. 7)

(F) IG 8

REACTIVATED ROAD
SEGMENT, [REDACTED]

BANDON BOUNG

ROYAL LAOTIAN
ROAD IN USE

PC J-11 DG, PC K-10AG
2ND EDITIONS, 1967, 1966
SCALE 1:500,000

ROUTE 23

ROUTE 13

ROUTE 16

SARAVANE

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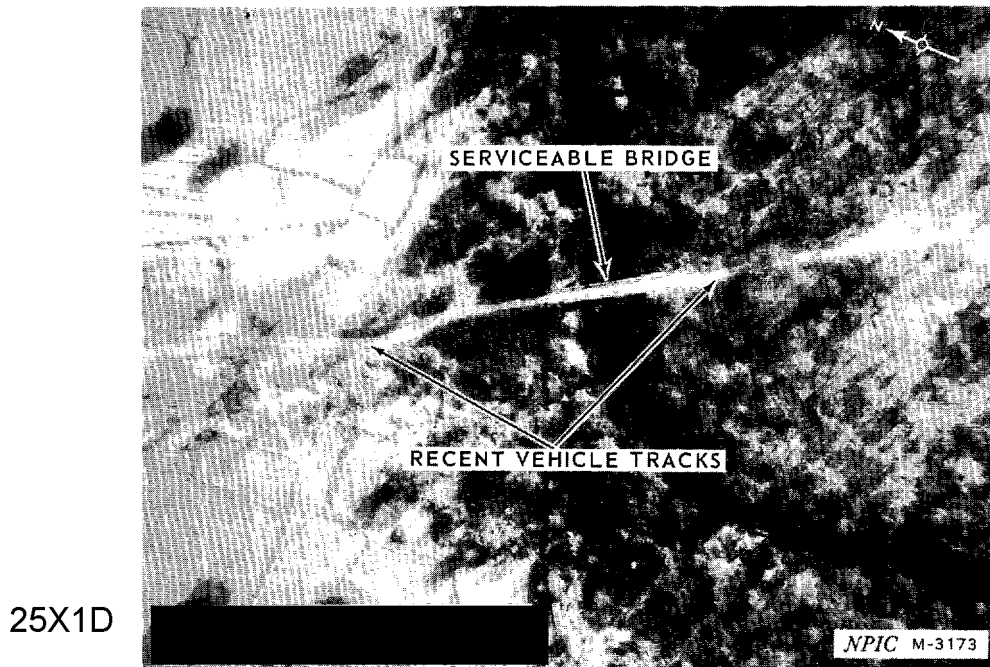


FIGURE 8. ROAD IN USE, ROUTE 23, LAOS ([REDACTED]) 25X1D



FIGURE 9. SERVICEABLE BRIDGE, ROUTE 23, LAOS ([REDACTED]) 25X1D

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